

# Population

**Kansas** increased in population from 2,688,418 residents in 2000 to 2,694,641 residents in 2001, a 0.23 percent increase. Hamilton, Finney, and Johnson counties had the largest increases in population from 1997 to 2001 with percent changes of 16.9, 11.6, and 11.4 respectively. Greeley, Graham and Jewell counties had the largest decreases in population with percent changes of 13.0, 12.4, and 9.5 respectively. ([Table 2](#))

According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there were 2,694,641 Kansans in 2001, a 8.0 percent increase in total population since 1991. ([Figure 4](#))

The rate of natural increase (difference between birth rate and death rate) has generally declined from a rate of 13.9 in 1960. In 2001, the natural increase rate was 5.3, a 3.6 percent decrease from 5.5 in 2000. ([Figure 5](#))

The median age of Kansans in 2001 was 35.2 years, a 6.3 percent increase from the 33.1 median age in 1991. The median age for Kansas males and females in 2001 was 33.7 and 36.4 respectively. ([Figure 6](#), [Table 4](#))

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1991-2001 was 8.0 percent, including an 8.7 percent increase for Kansas males and a 7.3 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1991 to 2001 included decreases in the 0-4, 25-34 and 65-74 age-groups of 0.5 and 13.2 and 5.4 percent respectively. An increase of 11.4 percent in residents 35-44 years of age and 49.2 percent in residents 45-54 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers. Furthermore, there were 5.0, 13.9, 7.8, and 13.1 percent increases in the 5-14, 15-24, 55-64 and 75 and over age-groups respectively. ([Figure 7](#), [Table 4](#))

The population density of Kansas was 32.9 persons per square mile in 2001, a 25.6 percent increase from 26.2 persons per square mile in 1961 and a 7.9 percent increase in population density since 1991. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. has increased from 50.8 to 80.5 persons per square mile from 1961 to 2001 respectively, a 58.5 percent increase. ([Figure 8](#))

In 2001, 30 of Kansas' 105 counties had population densities of less than 6.0 persons per square mile. The most sparsely populated counties were Wallace and Greeley with a density of 1.9 persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Wyandotte, with 1,042.8 persons per square mile. ([Figure 9](#))